



The Indianapolis Radio Club Newsletter

Founded 1914

"The oldest continuously operating Amateur Radio Club in the United States"

February 2013 Newsletter

Next Meeting:

March 8: Remote Station Operation, with Hank Wolfla, K9LZJ.

Highlights from the February Meeting:

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 by club president Dave Spoelstra, N9KT.

Dave clarified some information that has been a bit confusing, that the official start time is of the club's meetings is 7:30, with the "informal social gathering" prior to that. Dave recognized his micro-controller class of approximately 12 folks. Self introductions were made, with around 40 in attendance.

Dave said he wants to start fielding technical questions at the meeting. John Lee, W9GRE, asked how to measure 4KV with a 1KV meter. Tom, K9XV, said the easiest way was to build a voltage divider. Or, you can use a high voltage probe. Bob Osterhous, W9PSE, cautioned those present to not use a cigarette lighter power socket for a rig. Bob had run into problems with an ICOM rig not passing audio when powered from a cigarette lighter socket.

Dave talked about the lock selection process so the club station can be moved to the classroom building. The 100 year celebration of the club committee is being chaired by Tom Chance, K9XV. Dave said he wants to rotate the "new ham greeter" around members. Deb Goodrich, AB9WX, volunteered to be the greeter at next month's meeting. Club Treasurer Rhonda Curtis, WS9H, is getting pricing together regarding the Dayton bus. The Children's museum and Camp Belzer are being talked about for Field

Day locations. Operators are going to be needed for the on site operation of the State Fair special event station for one day in August. This will be a PSK31 station. More details will be forthcoming. Contact Ken Bandy, KJ9B if interested.

There is a possibility of reviving the Hilltop competition. If interested, contact Ron Cooper, WB9DKL.

Bob Blake, N9FIM announced there will be a severe weather spotters training session on March 9, running from 9:00 until approximately 11:00 at the IPSC facility at 21st and Post.

Next Month's meeting will be about remote operation of your station, hosted by Hank Wolfla, K9LZJ.

Steve Curtis, ND9C reminded everyone of the 220 MHZ net on the 224.8 repeater, meeting on Tuesday evenings at 8:00 pm.

Mike Sercer, WA9FDO confirmed the rumors that the Indy Hamfest is moving (back) to the Marion County Fairgrounds, on July 13.

Next, there was a short break so folks could sample to two competing pots of chili to determine the winner of this year's Chili cookoff. The cook that wins gets a bottle of Pepto-Bismol. Jim Rinehart's, K9RU chili won with his "sweet" chili.

Dave Miller, K9RTT talked about how to get an inexpensive 10 meter radio. He said one way was to get a CB rig that is officially illegal in the US, but covers 10 and 11 meters. He said you can also modify an older CB rig. Dave showed a modified Midland CB radio that he had modified for 10 meters, by changing a crystal in it. Jim, K9RU showed some of the radios that he used on 10 meters. Some were modified, one was an older rig that was made for 10 meters.

Tom Chance, K9XV, talked about 10 meter propagation. Currently, due to solar conditions, 10 meters is in pretty good shape.

Dave, N9KT gave a short presentation on passwords for use on line. He showed examples saying that a 9 character password is hundreds of times more secure than 8 character password. Generally, longer passwords are better. The internationally recognized Purdue security center says the absolute minimum length password should be 12 characters, 16 is better.

Finally, prizes were awarded and the meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Ham Radio News:

2013 INDY HAMFEST TO BE AT MARION COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

NEW FOR 2013: Expanded Commercial Space, Air Conditioned Indoor Table Spaces, Air Conditioned Forum Building, Overnight Camping on the Grounds, and Expanded Outdoor Flea Market.

This year's date: Saturday, July 13, at the MARION COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS, 7300 East Troy Ave. Point your browser to <http://www.indyhamfest.com/> for more details.

CENTRAL INDIANA SEVERE WEATHER SPOTTER TRAINING CLASSES COMING UP

February 27, 7:00 pm: Shelbyville, Indiana Downs, 4200 Michigan Road
March 2, 9:00 am: Noblesville Fire Station, 16800 Hazel Dell Parkway
March 4, 7:00 pm: Lebanon Senior Services Building, 515 Crown Pointe Drive
March 9, 9:00 am: Indianapolis State Police Post, 8468 E. 21st Street
March 9, 1:00 pm: Danville, Hendricks County Gov't. Center, 355 S. Washington
March 13, 7:00 pm: Fishers Town Hall, One Municipal Drive
March 18, 7:00 pm: Franklin, Johnson County Sheriff Building, 1111 Hospital Road
March 19, 7:00 pm: Indianapolis, IUPUI Campus Center, 420 University Blvd.

Classes last approximately 2 hours. No need to preregister for sessions. For more information, point your browser to <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/ind/?n=spotter#train>.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

Mike Palmer, N9FEB, is looking for volunteer ham radio communicators to support several events in and around Marion County. If you are interested in volunteering to support these events then check the IndyHams website at <http://www.indyhams.org/events> to see which events still need ham radio volunteers. Contact Mike at N9FEB@comcast.net to volunteer for any of the events.

FIELD DAY PROCLAMATION BEING SOUGHT

This note from Lou Everett, Sr., WA5LOU:

Hello Folks!

Per my request, our ARRL Indiana State Government Liaison, Dave Spoelstra, N9KT, has filed with Governor Pence, a Field Day Proclamation for the entire state, on behalf of all Indiana Radio Amateurs.

It is with great appreciation for, and commendation for all the fine work Amateur Radio Operators have accomplished in our great State, that I add my personal thanks for making me proud to be your ARRL Section Manager.

Thank you all very much!

Lou Everett, Sr., WA5LOU

ARRL Section Manager, Indiana Section

BUS TO DAYTON TO BE AVAILABLE AGAIN THIS YEAR

The Radio Club's treasurer, Rhonda Curtis, WS9H has confirmed that we will have a bus going to Dayton again this year. The pick up points will be the same as in previous years. The date this year will be Saturday, May 18. More information will be available in next month's newsletter.

COMMENT DEADLINE SET IN WRC-07 PROCEEDING

As previously reported, the FCC has proposed to amend its rules to implement the allocation decisions of the 2007 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-07) and to make certain other changes. Notice appeared in the December 27, 2012 issue of the Federal Register, which started the clock on a 60-day window for the submission of comments. Thus, comments are due no later than February 25, 2013, with reply comments due no later than March 27, 2013.

While most of the 130-page Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order does not directly affect the Amateur and Amateur-Satellite Services, two sections of the document are of particular interest to amateurs.

Specifically, the FCC proposes to upgrade the Amateur Service allocation in the upper half of the 160 meter band (1900-2000 kHz) from secondary to primary, while deleting the existing allocation to the Radiolocation Service. This is possible, because the

reaccommodation of radiolocation stations displaced by the expansion of the AM broadcasting band to 1705 kHz has been completed and there are no non-federal radiolocation stations licensed to operate in the 1900-2000 kHz band.

The FCC also seeks comments on whether, and how, an amateur low frequency (LF) allocation might be able to co-exist with Power Line Carrier (PLC) systems that are used by electric utilities to monitor and control the power grid. The Commission notes that while PLC systems do not have the status of an allocation, they carry "communications important to the reliability and security of electric service to the public." WRC-07 created a new secondary allocation to the amateur service at 135.7-137.8 kHz that already has been implemented in a number of other countries.

The ARRL will be preparing comments supporting both of these allocations. Individuals wishing to comment directly to the FCC should carefully read paragraphs 13-24 of the NPRM and follow the instructions contained in paragraph 175. The NPRM can be found in PDF format at,

http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2012/db1119/FCC-12-140A1.pdf.

WABASH VALLEY ARA HAMFEST COMING IN MARCH

The 2013 Wabash Valley Amateur Radio Association Hamfest and Computer Expo is coming up on Saturday, March 9, at the Indiana State University Dede Activity Center. The event will run from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. There will be hourly door prize drawings, and a FREE VE testing session at 11:00. Admission is \$7.00 (children under 12 are free). For more information, point your browser to <http://www.w9uuu.org/hamfest.html>.

SILENT KEYS

Bill Mullin, K9LVR of Zionsville, passed away on Jan 25. Thanks to Gary, K9LNX for this information.

Bob Northern, W9VCS sent this in:

"I was informed last night of the passing of KC9ESD, Betty Brackensiek, better known as Miss Betty. Terry Parkhurst, her son stated she closed her log book Friday evening (1/18/13) at 1730 hours at Community Hospital South. He said there will be no funeral as she is to be cremated and her ashes will be spread over one of her most favorite places. I know she will be missed by many."

FEEL FREE TO SHARE OUR NEWSLETTER

If you belong to any other radio groups, please feel free to share our newsletter with them. They can also sign up to be on our mailing list by filling out the form available at <http://www.indyradioclub.org/rqstnewsletter.htm>.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

John Pruitt, KC9YDO

SEND ME YOUR HAM RADIO NEWS

If anyone has any items for the newsletter, please send them to Ken Bandy at kj9b@arrl.net

Signals from the Past:

From the February, 1978 *Ama-Chewer*:

BLIZZARD 1978 This was one of the worst since recorded time. The January 27th IRC meeting as well as the Club Director's meeting scheduled for the 20th of January were both scrubbed due to the severe snow emergency. Hams helped considerably during these hectic hours, especially members of the RACES who gave long and yeoman service, providing communications services and the telephone operators handling traffic between the various relief agencies.

Upcoming Area Radio Events:

- March 9: Severe Weather Spotter training at ISP post at 8468 E. 21st Street
- March 9: Terre Haute Hamfest and Computer Expo Go to <http://www.w9uuu.org/hamfest.html> for more information.
- May 18: Bus to Dayton Hamvention
- July 13: Indy Hamfest. Go to www.indyhamfest.com for more information

2013 Officers:

- President: Dave Spoelstra, N9KT – EMAIL n9kt@arrl.net
- Vice Pres.: Dave Miller, K9RTT - ..EMAIL dmiller@ivytech.edu
- Secretary: Ken Bandy, KJ9B - ..EMAIL kj9b@arrl.net
- Treasurer: Rhonda Curtis, WS9H - ..EMAIL WS9H@comcast.net
- Chief Operator: Tom Chance, K9XV - ..EMAIL k9xv@arrl.net
- Dir. at large: Jim Rinehart, K9RU – EMAIL k9ru@arrl.net
- Dir. at large: Jerry Skoll, KC9DTB - ..EMAIL gskoll@msn.com
- Dir. at large: Bob Osterhous - ..EMAIL rosterhous@iquest.net
- W9JP Trustee: Don Hemenover, N9DOO – EMAIL don9doo@lightbound.com